



**Peter Franey
World War II
Royal Navy
Service No. D/173618**

Peter was born in December 1918 to parents John and Ellen Franey of Shearstown (Bay Roberts),

He enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Navy in early November 1939 at the age of 20.

As was the case with WW1 Royal Naval Reserve Volunteers, Peter was transferred to the Royal Navy of Great Britain and as such was given a British service No. D/1736178.

Peter was a member of the 1st Naval Contingent from Newfoundland to go overseas. This initial Contingent consisted of 200 men, several of which came from Shearstown, included Graham Mercer,

Heber Mercer, and Max Mercer. So, it would appear that Peter was among enlistees he knew. Additionally, there were another dozen men from the Bay Roberts area.

The Contingent Departed for Britain on 27th November 1939 and arrived in Liverpool, England on December 15th, 1939.

Records indicated that on the first four Naval Contingents from Newfoundland, totalling 627 men, almost all were designated to be boatsman on Royal Navy Ships. It is pretty safe to assume that this is what happened to Peter and his mates.

The 1921 Newfoundland census for the District of Harbour Grace shows Peter at 2 years old. He has an older sister Mary (4) and a younger brother David who is just 2 months old. Parents John and Ellen are both 24. The surname is spelled 'Pharyne', just as it sounds in the census entry.

Although records are unusually difficult to find, Peter does appear in the 1935 Newfoundland census as one of 7 children of John Franey, who is now a widower. Peter is the second oldest child at 16 according to this census.

Peter died in 1997 and is buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bay Roberts (Cable Avenue).